

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 17-22 are allowed and that claims 5-7 and 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten as suggested.

By the above amendment, claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 14, 23 and 30 have been amended and claims 5 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants request reconsideration of the objections and rejections specified in the Office Action based on the above amendment and following remarks.

Claim Objections

Applicants will address the claim objections in the order as listed in paragraphs 1-4 on page 2 of the Office Action.

(1) With regard to the term "unit cell", Applicants respectfully submit that such term should be given a broad interpretation based on Applicants' specification. The Examiner seeks clarification as to whether "unit cell" refers to a "full-unit cell", a "sub-unit cell" or both. It should be noted, however, that a "full-unit cell" and "sub-unit cell" are specific exemplary embodiments of the general embodiment "unit cell". For instance, the exemplary embodiments described on page 26, lines 18-24 and page 29, lines 14-18 of Applicants' specification describe "dummy cells" as being a type of "unit cell".

In any event, the meaning of the term "unit cell" as used in the claims is seemingly clear and definite. For instance, claim 1 recites "*dividing at least a first component and a second component of a semiconductor integrated circuit into a plurality of unit cells ... wherein each unit cell is the same size*".

(2) With regard to the objection of claim 5 (which has been canceled and incorporated into claim 1), Applicants have amended the phrase “defining a size of sub-unit cell ... ‘ to read “*defining a sub-unit cell having a same layout area and amount of sub-elements as the full-unit cell ...*”.

(3) With regard to the term “unit-cell” as in claim 17, the above discussion for the claim objection in (1) is equally applicable. In any event, Applicants believe that the meaning of “unit-cell” as recited in claim 17 is very clear based on the phrase “*defining a unit cell for the components, wherein the unit cell comprises a plurality of sub-elements and wherein the unit cell has a layout area*” as recited in claim 17.

(4). Applicants’ arguments as set forth in 1-3 above apply to the objection of the dependent claims as listed in paragraph 4 on page 2 of the Office Action..

In view of the above, withdrawal of the claim objections is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

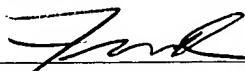
Claims 1-4, 8-16, 23-28 and 32-33 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,952,698 to Wong, et al. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections, claims 1 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 5 and 29, respectively, and place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 23, as well as all pending rejected claims that depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

With regard to claim 10, Applicants respectfully contend that Wong does not disclose or suggest, e.g., *determining a slave component of a semiconductor integrated*

circuit having an electrical characteristic C_1 to be matched to a corresponding electrical characteristic C_2 of a master reference component in a ratio of $\frac{C_1}{C_2} \neq 1$, and forming each of the master reference and slave components using one of more unit cells of equal size, as essentially recited in claim 10.

Indeed, Wong is solely directed to a method for improving 1:1 matching of device characteristics of a matched pair of MOS transistors so as to obtain identical matched transistors. Wong does not disclose or suggest a method for matching characteristics of a master and slave component in proportions not equal to 1:1, much less forming the master and slave components using equal sized unit cells uniformly distributed in an array so as to achieve said matching. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Wong neither anticipates, nor renders obvious, the invention of claim 10, nor the inventions of claims 11-15 at least by virtues of their dependence from claim 10. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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